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### CROATIAN FISHING INDUSTRY EXPANDS

During the occupation, half the fishing equipment in Croatia was confiscated. By 1946, however, about 70 percent of greater facilities were in service, and the catch was 6 percent greater than in 1940. The large net factory in Zadar had been repaired, and enough nets and other equipment of Yugoslav make were available to satisfy the needs of Adriatic fishermen. Production capacity in the fish-preserving plants had been increased by 306 percent over 1939. The organization of the fish purchasing network, which had a certain number of refrigerators, assured all fishermen of a

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market for their catch. This was the first time that refrigerators had been used in transport and preserving of fish.

In 1946, the state fishing enterprises were formed and allotted a certain number of fishing vessels. These were the first state fishing enterprises of socialist type to appear in Yugoslav Adriatic waters.

Fishermen's cooperatives began to be formed immediately after the occupation. At present, 86 fishermen's cooperatives are operating in Istria, the Croatian Primorje, and Dalmatia. The government has assigned these cooperatives 80 boats ranging from 11 to 15 meters long and 170 boat motors of 10-25 horsepower.

In 1947, a Ministry of Fishing was formed in the Croatian government.

In 1947, the total catch amounted to 1,311 carloads and the following year, 1,572 carloads, although bluefish were not abundant, and in spite of bad weather during those years.

In 1948, 200 tons of salt-water fish were consumed in Dubrovnik, 110 tons in Makarska, 400 tons in Split, 150 tons in Sibenik, 900 tons in Rijeka, 100 tons in Pula, 800 tons in Zagreb, 150 tons in Belgrade, 100 tons in Sarajevo and Mostar (combined), and 200 tons in Ljubljana. These figures do not include the fish purchased directly from the producers by the municipal purchasing agencies in coastal cities.

The 1948 fishing plan was fulfilled as follows: 60 percent for salt-water fish, 82 percent for fresh-water, 49 percent for processed fish, 66 percent for production of tin cans, 95 percent for production of nets, and 83 percent for investment. Although 12 percent more salt-water fish were caught in 1948 than in 1947, the total was only 60 percent of the quota under the 1948 plan.

Supplies, especially of clothing and shoes, to fishermen employed by the state have not been adequate, and the bonus system is not well enough organized to interest the fishermen in making a maximum catch. Supplies to cooperative fishermen also are not sufficient. All fishing equipment is sold at fixed prices, but the fishermen do not receive enough certificates to enable them to purchase materials for capital improvement in addition to their daily needs.

Although fresh-water fish make up only an eighth of the total catch, they are an important item of the food supply. During the last quarter of 1948, 400 tons of fresh-water fish were consumed in Zagreb, 30 tons in Sisak, 80 tons in Osijek, and 20 tons in Karlovac. Like salt-water fish, fresh-water fish are an item of export.

By the end of 1946, fishponds, boats, and nets had been repaired, and as much equipment was fit for service as in 1939. As a result of reclamation works on the fishponds, 180 tons more fish were caught in 1948 than in 1947.

In order to utilize fishponds fully, the raising of rice and young carp in fishponds has been started. The average annual yield is 41 quintals of rice and 2.5 quintals of carp fry per hectare. Large rice fields will be planted in Croatia in 1949 as a result of these successes. In 1948, the hitherto unused fishponds of Vransko Jezero and the backwaters of the Drava near Bijelo Brdo (White Swamp) were exploited successfully.

The fresh-water fishing plan for 1948 was realized only 82 percent, although more fish were caught than in 1939. One important reason for failure to meet the plan was insufficient food for the fish in the fishponds.

The fish-preserving industry met only 49 percent of its 1948 plan, although production was 306 percent greater than in 1939. In production of tin cans 66

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percent of the plan was met although production was 48 percent above the 1939 figure. Croatian tin-can makers also supply cans to Montenegrin factories.

The net, rope, and cord factories filled 95 percent of the plan by producing 45 percent more than in 1939. Production is sufficient to meet all the needs of Yugoslav Adriatic fishermen, and in 1948 exports were made to Bulgaria.

The main reason for failure of the plan for the fish-preserving industry was the irregularity of deliveries of raw materials. Fresh bluefish could not be obtained in sufficient quantity to assure regular production, and little or no backlog of fresh fish was left from 1947.

Mechanization, manpower and regular supplies of raw materials are the most important problems facing the fishing industry.

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